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The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, February 5th, 1900.

The educational stage of the campaign in South Africa may now fairly be assumed to have been passed. To-day's telegram recording the arrival of a flying column of Colonials in Zululand would show that the British are accepting and not ignoring the successful tactics of their adversaries. The recent statement by Mr. WYNDHAM, detailing the vast army Great Britain will have in South Africa a week hence, 160,000 men, should enable Lord ROBERTSON to deal effectively with the Boers. The news published to-day denotes that the British at Tugela are again about to become aggressive, and this time, with the knowledge gained of the enemy's positions in the previous attack, it is to be hoped the advance will be successful. The principal lessons the British have acquired from the campaign to the present have been the knowledge of the wonderful mobility of the Boers, the need of mounted infantry and irregular cavalry to checkmate that mobility, and above all the necessity of adequate numbers. The lessons have been repeatedly pointed out by military critics, British and Foreign, during the course of the campaign, and it is now apparent that the British War Office has assimilated the knowledge conveyed by the hardness of experience. In summarising the incidents of the campaign and the deductions therefrom the *Times* points out that "the troops available for the initial defence of Natal were inadequate and more could not be sent without either forming a mobilization from which the Government naturally shrank, or robbing the army of India to an undesirable extent. Whether any real plan of defence existed is not known; but it is clear that political considerations were permitted to override military necessity with the usual result. Worse positions than Dundee and Ladysmith could not have been selected, and the force at the former place narrowly escaped destruction or capture only to effect a concentration at the latter and to be isolated from 2nd November. The similitude of Kimberley and Mafeking was a certainty as soon as the Boers could reach these places. Henceforth the besieged garrisons practically ruled the course of the campaign. Practically our proceedings have been confined to direct attacks on strong positions which have served to display the devoted gallantry of our troops, but, with the single exception of Elandsfontein, have at the best only caused the enemy to quit their selected post for another after inflicting heavy loss, and at the worst have produced such an inexplicable disaster as that which befell the Highland Brigade at Mafersfontein. Alike in Natal and on the Western border, we have never moved ten miles from a railway, and, on the whole, the mobility and the enterprise shown by the garrisons of Mafeking and Kimberley have compared favourably with those of the retreating forces. These points were confirmed and emphasized by no less a person than the brilliant military commander, General PAVAZZA, when interviewed by a representative of the *Mail*. He pointed out that it was from the Boers now, things were to be learnt, not from the British, though he may have cause eventually to amend that opinion. From all points of

view, the Boers are extremely interesting. Their bravery, their vigour, their mobility, their marvellous. Every professional man would like to examine them more closely, and study their tactics, their modes of formation, the way they concentrate their troops and fight. He credits the British with being brave and good soldiers, because he had known them well, and saw them fight in the Crimean, but he thought "all the present demerits of the English are certainly due to their past presumption. They evidently thought they were to enter Pretoria at once without firing a shot. They did not suppose the war could become serious. At the outset of the campaign they allowed insignificant bodies to occupy regions which it would have been far better to evacuate immediately on the declaration of war. These troops are now besieged in Ladysmith, Kimberley, and Mafeking. To try to deliver them it has been necessary to send three armies, which, widely separated from one another and incapable of giving each other the slightest support, have one after another suffered defeat. A single strong English army, well led, would probably have rendered much better service than these three columns. All the issue is very brilliant but the English are fighting in very difficult circumstances. Their enemy is more mobile than they, is on his own ground, he goes about in an immense country where venturing is far from being a rapid business. The railways are rudimentary. But, after all the English should have known this long ago and their want of previous information appears incomprehensible."

Such is the opinion of many competent to judge, and such is what the British military authorities have at last seen enacted upon. The two main objects now before Lord ROBERTSON and KITCHENER, as the *Times* again points out are "To render our troops mobile; and to transfer the scene of our main operations as soon as possible from lines of country which have conferred the maximum of advantage upon the enemy. The first object can be attained by organization only. The second will soon exist in abundance. The second demands the rectification of a strategy which, as was expected, has proved unsoundly faulty.

"There will soon be a unique body of mounted men in South Africa who, if well handled and equipped with light transport carrying at least a week's supplies, could speedily discover and turn to advantage the weak points of the Boers. It is not a question of scouting for a field army, or of providing a cavalry screen in front of a slowly moving army. The text-books must be set aside. For example we have to look to the brilliant exploits of the Confederate cavalry leaders."

The Portuguese gunboat *Lisbon* has arrived at Colombo from Lisbon. She is a vessel of 553 registered tons burthen and carries five guns in her battery. The vessel is bound for Macao.

There will be much regret amongst the officers and men of the King's Own, says the *Sunday Press*, at that bad news about Col. Woodgate, the former commanding officer of the 2nd Battalion. Col. Woodgate, Col. Rodd, and then assuming charge of the battalion, Lt.-Col. Woodgate, now with the King's Own at Singapore, is a cousin of General Woodgate.

A telegram to India, dated the 19th inst., states that the *Times* has published a telegram from the Admiralty, the 17th, announcing that the Armstrongs of Newcastle had received letters from their correspondents in Asia stating that Russian troops, numbering thirty thousand men, have passed through Askard from Tiflis, and that they are going to Kuski on the Afghan frontier; also that the Russian Government have already appointed a representative at the capital of the Aman.

On December 28, the last rails were laid down on the Trans-Baikal section of the Siberian Railway, thus completing the present great enterprise. The 180 miles of establishing uninterrupted steam communication between Western Europe, St. Petersburg, and the extreme eastern limits of the Russian Empire on the Pacific Coast. The length of this last section just finished is 603 miles, from the eastern shores of Lake Baikal, going through Chita to Strelak on the river Sira, a tributary to the Amur. The lines are transported in wagons, in large numbers, and the first train to be built by Sir William Armstrong, and Co., paid from Strelak the river route must be used to arrive at Khabarovsk, whence the Tzuruk section of the railway runs to Vladivostok.

The semi-annual report of the Japan Patent Company, of which a general meeting of shareholders was held recently, gives evidence of the rapid growth of this industry in Japan. In gross earnings the company during the past year have increased 300,000 yen, or 150,000 yen over the six months just preceding. A dividend of 60 per cent. was declared, and the company decided to increase its capital by 600,000 yen in the near future, making the total capitalization 1,200,000 yen. New wells are to sink in the vicinity of Miyamoto, in Mishima district. The Nagakura Oil Transportation Company is constructing a pipe line from the wells at Miyamoto. The work will perhaps be completed by April next.

According to a Berlin paper, the *Leipziger Anzeiger*, the Anglo-German agreement stipulates that the Portuguese possessions in Africa be divided between both Empires, the territories to the north of the Zambezi being allotted to Germany. But Germany is already to get the Asiatic colonies, Portugal namely, and the Indian, German's acquisitions, if the Indian and the Indo-Chinese. Architectural plans amount to 7,270 square miles, with 7,000,000 inhabitants. England, according to the treaty, gets Portugal's other African possessions, amounting to nearly 772,000 square miles, with 13,000,000 inhabitants. Some trifling indemnity is deducted from Berlin that the state is a party to, but it remains to be seen if this is a portion of facts, but it remains to be seen if the school is not the cause of the government's anger.

The Wang or Chief of Souna, a petty Shan State which lies between China and Siam, in the latitude of the Kaulong ferry, is often in opposition to the domination of his frontier. The headman of Kaulong, Putayut settem, in latitude 25 deg. 15 min., longitude 93 deg. 50 min., was sent to Kaulong, the capital of Souna, by the Shan State. The Shan State, to represent one friendly intention to the Wang. The headman was arrested by his eight followers. Subsequently Kaulong capitulated to the Wang and fought him off by the payment of an indemnity. The Wang now hastened to attack the reserve escort of the Commission, consisting of Military Police, which is stationed at Hopang, on the Namting, the 15 miles north of Putayut. The threat of the Wang was to burn the town, and the reserve escort is in danger, but its intervention a reinforcement of 30 men is being sent from Lashio. Mr. Scott, with his personal escort of 50 European soldiers, is at Mawphlang on the Namting, and the camp of Chinese Commissioners, who have a large Chinese force, is close by.

A RECONNAISSANCE.  
Reuter's Correspondent at Siam, 30th January, says that Col. Donaldson had reconnoitred that day as far as Mawphlang, above Pitsiab Drift and saw nothing of the enemy.

INDIAN TROOPS AND THE WAR.  
Mr. Balfour in the House of Commons said it was not intended to employ Indian troops in South Africa.

THE INDIAN FAMINE.  
The famine in India is becoming more

severe, the more so as the relief forces are here on Saturday.

FRANCE AND THE WAR.  
The French comprehend that their campaign of subjugation of England's Queen and people has produced no influence on the march of British troops, while it has had still more the international status of France, by keeping her out of the meeting of the three nations of the world, the United States, Germany, and England. Further, the English pay very little attention to what France may think or say about them. They are in the off to South Africa to raise the down trodden Boers, and help their proverbial love for "equal rights and liberties," has fallen through. The French day for that kind of talk goes by; they prefer the comfort of staying at home and depending upon armchair abuse of what they have no intention to attack. The French also perceive that the tide in the fortunes of the Boer has turned. Britain's call to arms has been readily and speedily answered from the most distant part of her possessions. The cause is now one of fighting in more equal terms. The English are largely obtaining cavalry and artillery; these give the mobility it wanted to follow the quick retreating Boer. He must now stand and face the bayonet, or if he so prefers, be spitted in his trenches. His countrymen will be in the rear to help him. The Boer has stopped, before the police station, he depicted the young man in the name of the law. A friend paid the fine amounting to his last pennies, and left him five francs to reach home. The late money was soon spent in drink. A local chemist was laid under contract for the amount of his fare home, and the chemist bought the ticket, saw his brother profession, and paid the bill.

The Engineers had received 1,733,778 shillings for their Relief Fund. H. M. S. *Leam* has left Singapore for Labuan and Sandakan, presumably to be at hand in case Mat. Salleh goes away from the police force, and gives further trouble.

The departure of the German mail steamer, *Sachsen*, for Europe, has been fixed for Thursday the 8th inst., instead of Wednesday as pre-arranged. The vessel will go direct, and the hour of sailing will be known later.

A telegram to the *Times* dated New York, 31st December, states that a Washington telegram to the *Times* says that the assurances of the U.S. Government asked for on the question of the "open door" in China have been given by President McKinley, President Roosevelt, and Jeffer, and that Italy is expected to follow suit.

The State Department declines to confirm this, but full details are now published, derived apparently from some official source. The matter is one on which the Government is known to be silent.

It is said that the *Victor*, which was so recently detached to the China Station, is to return to the Mediterranean, and that her place in the Far East will be taken by the *Leander*, which, being shod and copper-bottomed, will require looking so often as the larger vessel. China, indeed, remains a "Naval Correspondent," an ideal station for the *Leander*, as it would be for the *Centaur* and *Borod* if their armament were improved. At any rate, there is probably more room in the rungs than there is in the report of the *Victor* to the *Times* that she is bound to *Revere*, which is then to come home for an extensive refit, preparatory to joining the Channel Squadron. Perhaps the fact is that a detail has been omitted, and that though the rumour does not mention the fact, it is intended to read out the *Inaccessible* to take the place of the *Revere*. Otherwise the station would be a battle-shore of the normal complement.

ENGELSTAD'S POWERS OF DISTINCTION.  
The French mind has been well imbued with the power of England to have soldiers at will, and to transport them where she pleases. The *Sachsen* gave an entertainment before a crowded house. The programme opened with an amusing little sketch entitled "From the Navy to the Footlights and back again," in which the following took part:—C. W. Bastian, P. D. Goebel, G. B. Pollard, Lou. C. Scott, J. H. Speer, G. B. Pollard, Lou. C. Scott, J. H. Speer, G. B. Pollard, and Kyle next gave an exhibition of "troubling creation." Mr. Hall following with a sentimental farce, "Home sweet home," was given by G. Gallier and J. Haughey. A capital farce was given by G. B. Pollard and F. W. Shannon, and dance artists and cake-walkers. The performance of Basstian and Kyle next gave an exhibition of "troubling creation." Mr. Hall following with a sentimental farce, "Home sweet home," was given by G. Gallier and J. Haughey. A capital farce was given by G. B. Pollard and F. W. 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## THE WAR IN SOUTH AFRICA.

TELEGRAMS VIA CEYLON.

## DETAILS OF THE LADYSMITH ASSAULT.

A TERRIFIC STRUGGLE.

LONDON, 18th January.  
The Standard correspondent, describing the attack on Ladysmith on the 6th January, says the Boers' objective was Cesar's Camp, on the other side of which is a very ravine. The camp is thus divided from the other British position, and, if taken, would bring the town within rifle range.

HOW THE ENEMY BEGAN THE ATTACK.—THEIR FIRST REPULSE.

ATTACKING THROUGH THE RAVINE, THEY FOUGHT ON THE HILL.

The British and Colonial and Manchester, and the Rifle Brigade, tasked their rigorous, while the 33rd, the 21st, and the 43rd Battalions, under Major Abdy, crossed the Klip River, galloped across the plain, and shelled the ridge, pressing steadily on their rear until the ridge led in disorder.

THE BOERS IN AND BEYOND, BY MAPS.

Russia on the Pacific and the Siberian, Italy, by "Vladimir," with Maps and Illustrations.

In Connection with the do Willoughby.

Claim, by Francis Hedgeon Burnett.

Tenayson's Poems, with a full page Illustration.

The Khaki Bib (India Paper).

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Major Bishop (Colonial Ed.)

Russia on the Pacific and the Siberian, Italy, by "Vladimir," with Maps and Illustrations.

In Connection with the do Willoughby.

Claim, by Francis Hedgeon Burnett.

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SUBJECT TO ALTERATION.

STEAMERS	DESTINATIONS	SAILING DATES
HOLSTEN	HAVRE & HAMBURG via COLOMBO	About 11th Freight
Capt. Bahr	(London with transhipment in Hamburg)	February
BABELSBERG	HAVRE and HAMBURG	About 18th Freight and Passage
Capt. Mar	(London with transhipment in Hamburg)	February
ALEXIA	BORDEAUX, HAVRE and HAMBURG	About 4th Freight
Capt. Knuth	(London with transhipment in Hamburg)	March
SAVIA	HAVRE and HAMBURG	About 18th Freight and Passage
Capt. Knuth	(London with transhipment in Hamburg)	March
ASTURIA	NEW YORK	About 20th Freight
Capt. Hildebrandt	(via Suez Canal)	March

These steamers have superior accommodation for Passengers and carries a Doctor and a Steward.

For further particulars as to Freight, Passage, etc., apply to

CARLOWITZ &amp; CO., AGENTS.

Hongkong, 29th January.

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## NIPPON YUSEN KAISHA

THE JAPAN MAIL STEAMSHIP COMPANY.

## PROPOSED SAILINGS FROM HONGKONG—SUBJECT TO ALTERATION.

STEAMERS	DESTINATIONS	SAILING DATES
YAMAGUCHI MARU	KOBE (DIRECT)	THURSDAY, 8th February, 4 P.M.
THOMAS TIBBET	MARSEILLLES, LONDON AND ANTWERP, VIA SINGAPORE, PENANG, COLOMBO AND PORT SAID	FRIDAY, 9th February, 6 DAYLIGHT
HITACHI MARU	VICTORIA, B.C., SHAI, etc.	MONDAY, 12th February, 4 P.M.
M. J. CROWD	US, CHINA, HONGKONG, KOREA, KOBE DIRECT, SHIMONOSEKI & KOBE, TIENTSIN, SHAI, HONGKONG, YOKOHAMA, MANILA, SAKADAKAN	FRIDAY, 23rd February, 6 DAYLIGHT
WARASA MARU	MARSHALL ISLANDS, LONDON AND ANTWERP, VIA SINGAPORE, PENANG, COLOMBO, and PORT SAID	FRIDAY, 23rd February, 6 DAYLIGHT

Through Passenger Tickets and Bills of Lading issued for the Principal Cities in the United States, Canada, and Europe, in connection with the GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY and Atlantic Steamers.

For further information as to Freight, Passage, etc., apply to the Company's Agent, Bruce O'Gorman, at No. 7, Peake Central.

A. S. MIHARA, Manager.

Hongkong, 20th January, 1900.

## PENINSULAR AND ORIENTAL STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY.

FOR	STEAMERS	TO SAIL ON	REMARKS
LONDON, &c.	BENGAL	11th	See Special Advertisement.
	S. Borchum	February	
YOKOHAMA, VIA NA	ROHILLA	About 17th	Freight or Passage, (Passing GASAKI and ROBES)
	B. L. Lockyer, R.N.A.	February	through the Inland Sea.
SHANGHAI	C. Gadd	About 17th	Freight or Passage.
LONDON	C. Gadd	February	Freight or Passage.
SHANGHAI & JAPAN	C. Gadd	About 24th	Freight or Passage.
YOKOHAMA, VIA NA	C. Gadd	About 25th	Freight or Passage. (Passing GASAKI and KOBE)
	W. H. Haughton, R.N.A.	February	through the Inland Sea.
MARSHALLS AND LONDON DIRECT	PARMA	31st March	Freight or Passage.
LONDON DIRECT	MARSHALL	14th April	Freight or Passage.

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H. A. BITCHIE, Superintendent.

Hongkong, 5th February, 1900.

## NORTHERN PACIFIC STEAMSHIP CO.

## PROPOSED SAILINGS FROM HONGKONG, VIA SHANGHAI, INLAND SEA OF JAPAN, KOBE AND YOKOHAMA.

FOR	Proposed	Proposed	Proposed
Steamer	Tom.	Captain	Sailing
			Steamer
GLENMORE	Feb. 10	AMERIQUE	3,777 J. Murray

This attention of Passengers is directed to the very cheap rates offered by this line to the PACIFIC COAST and to the INTERIOR and EASTERN CITIES of the UNITED STATES and to EUROPE.

HONGKONG to LONDON, 47.

Excellent accommodation. First class Table, Doctor and STEWARDESS carried.

Passages to SINGAPORE may be had by one of the First-Class ATLANTIC MAIL LINES.

HONGKONG to NEW YORK, 241.

The Railways travelling is soon to open on the American Continent, two trans-continental trains daily from Peking. Dining Car is attached to trans-continental trains day and night; TACOMA to New York by day. Triennial Survey of the Rocky and Cascade Mountains. The YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK.

HONGKONG to VICTORIA, TACOMA, or PORTLAND, 223.

The best route to the INTERIOR and EASTERN CITIES. Proposed sailings from VICTORIA, TACOMA and PORTLAND to DULUTH and St. MICHIGAN.

HONGKONG to YELLOWSTONE PARK AND BACK, 255 10s. th.

This rule covers the ocean voyage to TACOMA or PORTLAND and back. Railway from TACOMA or PORTLAND to CINCINNATI and return. Sleeping and Dining Car accommodation. TACOMA or PORTLAND to Livingstone and return, and Stage Coach Transportation Circular to Mammoth Hot Springs, Roosevelt, and Upper Geyser Basin, Yellowstone Lake, Grand Canyon and Falls of the Yellowstone, and return, and five and one half days' board at the Park Association Hotels.

These steamers will be sold for passage by any. N. P. Steamer leaving Hongkong between 1st May and 1st August, will be sold for re-embarkation on N. P. Steamer within four months, the round trip to be made within three months.

Rates of Passage to other Points on application.

Notice rates allowed to members of Government Services.

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DODWELL &amp; CO., LIMITED, General Agents.

Hongkong, 20th January, 1900.

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LONDON, NEW YORK, BOSTON, BALTIMORE, NEW ORLEANS, GALLEYSTON, AND SOUTH AMERICAN PORTS.

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PROPOSED SAILINGS FROM HONGKONG—SUBJECT TO ALTERATION.

STEAMERS

SACHSEN, WEDNESDAY, 6th February.

GÖTTSCHE, WEDNESDAY, 21st February.

BAUER, WEDNESDAY, 28th February.

STUTTGART, WEDNESDAY, 4th March.

HÖNIG ALBERT, WEDNESDAY, 10th April.

WEIMAR, WEDNESDAY, 16th April.

PRINZ HEINRICH, WEDNESDAY, 22nd April.

PREUSSEN, WEDNESDAY, 28th April.

HAMBURG, WEDNESDAY, 4th May.

SACHSEN, WEDNESDAY, 10th May.

CÖLN, WEDNESDAY, 16th May.

BAUER, WEDNESDAY, 22nd May.

STUTTGART, THURSDAY, 26th May.

HÖNIG ALBERT, THURSDAY, 9th June.

WEIMAR, THURSDAY, 15th June.

PRINZ HEINRICH, THURSDAY, 21st June.

PREUSSEN, THURSDAY, 27th June.

HAMBURG, THURSDAY, 3rd July.

STUTTGART, THURSDAY, 9th August.

HÖNIG ALBERT, THURSDAY, 15th August.

WEIMAR, THURSDAY, 21st August.

PRINZ HEINRICH, THURSDAY, 27th August.

PREUSSEN, THURSDAY, 3rd September.

HAMBURG, THURSDAY, 9th September.

STUTTGART, THURSDAY, 15th September.

HÖNIG ALBERT, THURSDAY, 21st September.

WEIMAR, THURSDAY, 27th September.

PRINZ HEINRICH, THURSDAY, 3rd October.

PREUSSEN, THURSDAY, 9th October.

HAMBURG, THURSDAY, 15th October.

STUTTGART, THURSDAY, 21st October.

HÖNIG ALBERT, THURSDAY, 27th October.

WEIMAR, THURSDAY, 3rd November.

PRINZ HEINRICH, THURSDAY, 9th November.

PREUSSEN, THURSDAY, 15th November.

HAMBURG, THURSDAY, 21st November.

STUTTGART, THURSDAY, 27th November.

HÖNIG ALBERT, THURSDAY, 3rd December.

WEIMAR, THURSDAY, 9th December.

PRINZ HEINRICH, THURSDAY, 15th December.

PREUSSEN, THURSDAY, 21st December.

HAMBURG, THURSDAY, 27th December.

STUTTGART, THURSDAY, 3rd January.

HÖNIG ALBERT, THURSDAY, 9th January.

WEIMAR, THURSDAY, 15th January.

PRINZ HEINRICH, THURSDAY, 21st January.

PREUSSEN, THURSDAY, 27th January.

HAMBURG, THURSDAY, 3rd February.

STUTTGART, THURSDAY, 9th February.

HÖNIG ALBERT, THURSDAY, 15th February.

WEIMAR, THURSDAY, 21st February.

PRINZ HEINRICH, THURSDAY, 27th February.

PREUSSEN, THURSDAY, 3rd March.

HAMBURG, THURSDAY, 9th March.

STUTTGART, THURSDAY, 15th March.

HÖNIG ALBERT, THURSDAY, 21st March.

WEIMAR, THURSDAY, 27th March.

PRINZ HEINRICH, THURSDAY, 3rd April.

PREUSSEN, THURSDAY, 9th April.

HAMBURG, THURSDAY, 15th April.

STUTTGART, THURSDAY, 21st April.

HÖNIG ALBERT, THURSDAY, 27th April.

WEIMAR, THURSDAY, 3rd May.

PRINZ HEINRICH, THURSDAY, 9th May.

PREUSSEN, THURSDAY, 15th May.

HAMBURG, THURSDAY, 21st May.

STUTTGART, THURSDAY, 27th May.

HÖNIG ALBERT, THURSDAY, 3rd June.

WEIMAR, THURSDAY, 9th June.

PRINZ HEINR

mostly all of them wounded. Three of the New South Wales cut their way through and escaped.

**BOER INHUMANITY AT MAPEKING.**  
The bombardment of Mafeking still continues; but the enemy have made very little progress, and Colonel Baden-Powell is as irritatingly confident as ever. On the 3rd instant the Boers deliberately shelled the women's hanger, and killed a little girl aged eight years, and two other children. The indignation among the garrison is intense.

**THE STORMBERG REVERSE.**  
From Sterkstroom a message has been received, that the authorities have completely exonerated the guide Morgan, who led General Gatso's force in the night attack on Stormberg.

**MUNIFICENT CONTRIBUTION BY COLONEL LUMSDEN.**

Calcutta, 19th January.  
Colonel Lumden's contribution to the Indian Volunteer Contingent is Rs50,000, not Rs5,000.

**THE ENEMY LOSSES.**

London, 19th January.  
Lord Dundonald, with a force of mounted troops, encountered a Boer force on Wednesday afternoon to the west of Actor Holmes. He was reinforced by General Warren at 7 o'clock in the evening by a detachment of Dragoons. Lord Dundonald occupied the tropes after the fight, and now held the position. The Boer losses were a Field Cornet and twenty men killed, and wounded, and fifteen taken prisoners. The English loss was Lieutenant Shar, of the Imperial Light Horse, wounded, and two privates killed and one wounded.

**SPEECH BY THE HOME SECRETARY.**

London, 19th January.  
Sir Matthew White Ridley, speaking at Liverpool yesterday, said that Her Majesty's Ministers shared the full responsibility, and they have been united from the beginning of the Transvaal crisis. He added that, when the time came, their defence will be found adequate with regard to the war. The Home Secretary said that all the Generals in the field had the confidence of the country, as well as that of the Government.

**ARTILLERY REINFORCEMENTS.**

London, 19th January.  
Twelve Batteries of Artillery will embark for the Cape within a week.

**THE EIGHTH DIVISION.**

London, 19th January.  
The Eighth Division for the Cape has been ordered to mobilise at Aldershot immediately. It is reported that General Rennie will command it.

**GREAT FIRE AT SINGAPORE.**

About eight o'clock on the night of the 24th ult. one of these terrible conflagrations that cause such great damage to property, and throw the residents of the town into excitement, broke out at the Tanjong Pagar Dock Co.'s Wharf. How the fire originated is not as yet known; but, about the time mentioned, the end of the steam saw mill nearest to the fitting shops was noticed to be ablaze. Plenty of assistance was forthcoming, and it was not long before the dock steam fire engine was at work and two other engines with the members of the Fire Brigade, under Superintendent Jennings, were on the scene shortly after eight o'clock. By this time, however, the whole building had got fairly alight, the great mass of wood inside the building blazing furiously. The flames leaped up to a height of fully 80 feet, and the roof of that portion of the building fell in with a great crash. This did not check the fire in the least. The scene about this time was magnificent, although of a very disastrous character. Not 20 yards away lay the s.s. *Zweea*, in dry dock and a little further away was the s.s. *La Sylve*, the French Mail steamer which was recently stranded at Garris Light and is now under repairs. Some idea of the heat from the fire can be gained when it is explained that the paint of the *Zweea* was burnt and had commenced to peel off.

There was no lack of willing helpers, firemen, police, employees at the dock, and civilians working together in a praiseworthy style. Information had also reached the Commander of H.M.S. *Linen* lying in the Roads, and a score of bluejackets, assisted by several marines, armed with axes, set to work to clear away anything likely to assist the progress of the flames.

The fire was not long in reaching the main end of the building, and as several boats were in course of construction close by, particular attention was paid to preventing the flames reaching them, these efforts being successful. Another danger, however, was threatening. Close to the end of the mill is a godown rented by the Ocean Steamship Company. This building is stored with such inflammable materials as tar, rope, &c., whilst there was also a large quantity of matches there. The efforts of the firemen were chiefly directed to preventing this building getting alight. In this their efforts were rewarded with success.

By eleven o'clock the shed had been completely burnt out, and there was little difficulty in checking the fire's spread.

Besides the burning of the mill and its contents no other damage was done. What is left of the mill are the iron pillars which supported the shed and the sheets of corrugated iron, burnt, twisted, and now useless.

The machinery in the saw mills consisted of boilers, circular saws, frame saws, wood-working machinery, &c., and it is not yet known how much of this will be fit for further use.

**THE DAMAGE.**

The property of the Dock Company is insured for at least two million dollars, divided by between 13 insurance companies. The particular section which was on fire is insured for \$75,000, divided proportionately between these 13 companies. The exact loss cannot be estimated, but it is known that it will be less than \$75,000.

The general opinion in insurance circles is that 13 is a very unlucky number, and that as quickly as possible the Dock Company should make it either 12 or 14.

One of the marines from the *Linen* named Wildbank met with an accident while assisting at the fire. One of the engines was being removed to another part of the dock, when he slipped and dislocated his left knee. The ship's doctor from *La Sylve* attended him, and he was removed to the *Linen*.

**CRIMINAL LAW AND ITS HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT.**

The following is the continuation of the paper on "Criminal Law and its Historical Development," read before the Odd-Volunteers Society at the City Hall on Tuesday, 30th ult., by the Hon. W. Meigh Goodman (Acting Chief Justice):

**PROCEDURE IN THE CASE OF INDICTABLE OFFENCES.—(A.) PROCEDURE BEFORE THE MAGISTRATE.**

It may be appropriate to indicate, at this point, the mode of procedure followed in England in the case of an indictable offence, and dealt with summarily by the Magistrate. As a rule, such a case commences, if the accused is not already in custody, by the issue of a summons or warrant to procure his attendance before the stipendiary Magistrate or the two Justices of the Peace, who in many country districts of England are his equivalent. The summons or warrant of arrest in the case may be contained in a concise statement of the charge. Before a warrant of arrest can issue it is indispensable that the information or statement of the accuser or informer should be verified by oath in due form.

The accused person, either having appeared to a summons or being brought up in custody, is placed in the dock and proceedings begin at once. Often a remand is at this stage asked for on the part of the prosecution, so as to procure the attendance of all the necessary witnesses, some of whom may not yet be in attendance. Some slight evidence will justify such remand, and the Magistrate may orally remand for three clear days or by written warrant for a space not exceeding eight clear days.

Subpoenas may be issued if necessary to procure the attendance of witnesses. Then, upon the day appointed for continuing the hearing of the prosecutor and his witnesses as well as the accused being present, and either side, should they think fit, being represented by counsel, the case is opened by a brief statement upon the part of the prosecutor, who then proceeds to bring forward his witnesses. The latter will be examined upon oath, their depositions being taken down by the clerk, in the first person, and as nearly as possible in the exact language used. Any material remark volunteered by the witness during any part of the proceedings should be similarly recorded. No proceedings should be had liberty to cross-examine him, and the answers will be taken down in the same manner as those obtained in the examination itself.

All these depositions will then be read over to, and signed by, the respective witnesses who have made them, and will be signed by the presiding Magistrate. And any such deposition may be used against the accused, at his trial, in case of the previous death of the witness making it or of his being so ill at the time as to be unable to attend.

If, after hearing all the evidence for the prosecution, the Magistrate is of opinion that it is not sufficient to put the accused on trial, the latter is entitled to be forthwith discharged. It should be observed that the ordinary rules of evidence apply equally to such cases as the presiding as to those in which the Magistrate is dealing with a matter as to which his jurisdiction is final.

If the Magistrate is satisfied, however, that the evidence adduced by the prosecutor is sufficient to put the accused on his defence, he will read or cause to be read to him the depositions already taken, and, after informing him of the precise legal charge which he has to answer, will address him in the following terms:

"Having heard the evidence do you wish to say anything in answer to the charge? You are not obliged to say anything unless you desire to do so; but whatever you say will be taken down in writing and may be given in evidence against you on your trial, and you are also clearly to understand that you have nothing to hope from any promise of favour and nothing to fear from any threat which may have been held out to you to induce you to make any admission or confession of your guilt; but whatever you now say may be given in evidence against you upon your trial, notwithstanding such promise or threat." Any statement which the accused may make in answer must be taken down, read over to him, signed by the Magistrate and placed with the depositions; and such statement may be given in evidence against him at his trial.

The Magistrate will then proceed to demand of the accused whether he wishes to call any witnesses. If so, their statements upon oath will be taken both by way of examination and cross-examination, provided they know anything of the facts of the case, or anything tending to show the innocence of the accused. Such depositions will be reduced to writing, read over to the person making the same, and otherwise treated in precisely the same manner as the depositions for the prosecution. Should this last evidence be such as to supply, in the opinion of the Magistrate, a sufficient and conclusive answer to the charge, the accused will be at once released.

Should the Magistrate, on the other hand, consider it his duty to send the matter for trial, he will either commit the accused to prison for safe custody during the interim or admit him to bail. He will bind over, by recognisance, the prosecutor and his several witnesses, as well as all witnesses called for the defence (not being mere witnesses to character) who may, in his opinion, have given evidence in any way material to the case, or tending to prove the innocence of the accused, to appear at the Court at which the accused is to be tried and prosecute or give evidence respectively. Minors and married women are constantly thus bound over, and the Magistrate may, by warrant, commit to prison any witness refusing to be bound, until the trial."

**(b.) PROCEDURE BETWEEN COMMITTAL AND TRIAL—FUNCTIONS OF THE GRAND JURY.**

**IN ENGLAND AND THE ATTORNEY GENERAL IN HONGKONG.**

The Magistrate, having committed for trial the accused, in England, either remains in custody till the hearing of the case by the Quarter Sessions or the Judge of Assize as the case may be, or else procures bail, which will generally be allowed, except in cases of very serious crime where the punishment is likely to be so heavy that the accused would, in all probability, prefer to forfeit the recognisance of himself and his sureties, and run away rather than appear and take his trial.

In this Colony there are no Quarter Sessions but, what is more advantageous to the accused, a monthly sitting of the Supreme Court which ensures the speedy trial of all accused persons and prevents the delays which are often complained of in England.

(To be continued.)

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which has received the highest praise from the leading European and American papers, as well as from leading Medical men, does not consist in cutting the callousity of the corn, for thence this is cut the larger it grows, and, extending, produces inflammation, and gives rise to sores which may be followed by serious consequences to numbers to mention.

To thoroughly cure corns, bunions, &c., &c., & all diseases of the feet, THE CURE OF THE EVIL WHICH IS IN THE FOOT, MUST BE EXTRACTED, that is to say, the white point forming a kind of eyelet must be taken away.

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